

MCMS Band Handbook



Welcome to the Meridian Creek Band family! I am looking forward to connecting with you this school year and creating beautiful music.

Please take a minute to read through this packet; on the following pages, you will find ...

- [MCMS Music Calendar](#) (Tentative; will be updated)
- [Extra Performance Opportunities](#)
- [Band Supplies](#)
- [Instrument Rental](#)
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- [Band Contract](#) (parents & students, please complete together)

I'm really excited about what lies ahead for us, from great rehearsals and performances, to gaining new musical knowledge, to wonderful and lasting relationships.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me through the school email. My address is: simona@wlwv.k12.or.us

Sincerely,
Mr. Simon



MERIDIAN CREEK
MUSTANGS

MCMS Music Calendar 2021-2022

(Updated 9/9/21)

***=Yet to Be Determined**

| Date/Time | Event | Location | Groups |
|---|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Week of Monday, September 27th → After School | All-State Audition Recordings | MCMS | Individuals - Band/Orch/Choir |
| Friday, October 22nd → | Pep Band → Football Game Performance | Wilsonville High School | Advanced Band |
| TBD | WLWV MS Choir Festival | MCMS or WVHS | Advanced Choir |
| Wednesday, December 8th @ 5:30pm | MCMS Winter Concert | MCMS Gym | All Bands, Choirs, & Orchestras |
| Monday, December 13th @ Time TBD | Holiday Luncheon Performance @ Women's Association of Charbonneau | Women's Association of Charbonneau | Adv Band & Choir |
| Thursday, January 13th- Friday, January 14th | OMEA All State (Accepted by Audition) | Eugene, OR | Individual - Band/Orch/Choir |
| *Wednesday, March 9th-Saturday, March 13th | NW Honor Choir (ACDA) | Spokane, Washington | Individual |
| Tuesday, March 15th @ Time TBD | Spring Band Concert | WVHS Auditorium | Beginning & Advanced Band |
| Wednesday, March 16th @ Time TBD | Spring Choir Concert | WVHS Auditorium | Beginning & Advanced Choir |
| Thursday, March 17th @ Time TBD | Spring Orchestra Concert | WVHS Auditorium | Beginning & Advanced Orchestra |
| TBD | Solo & Ensemble | TBD | Individual |
| Tuesday, June 7th @ 5:30pm | MCMS Final Concert | MCMS Gym | All Bands, Choirs, & Orchestras |

Extra (Fun) Performance Opportunities

The following performance opportunities are in addition to those being offered as courses. These are extracurricular activities, aside from pep band for Advanced Band.

Jazz Band

Jazz Band is an incredible opportunity (not mandatory) for students to learn about and perform challenging music in different styles (swing, rock, funk, blues, etc.) A typical jazz big band consists of Alto, Tenor, and Bari Saxophones, Trombones, Trumpets, Piano, Bass, Guitar, Drum Set, and Vibraphone. Rehearsals occur before school from 8-9am, Mondays, (every other) Wednesday, and Thursdays. More information will be provided about Jazz Band throughout the beginning of the year.

Pep Band

Advanced Band students have the amazing opportunity of playing with the Wilsonville High School Pep Band, led by the wonderful Mr. Davies, once or twice a year. This is a GREAT opportunity for Advanced Band students to see the cool and fun things going on in the Wilsonville High School Band Program and connect with our High School Band students!

Solo/Ensemble and Chamber Groups

There are several opportunities for students to participate as a soloist or in small chamber music ensembles. This includes the Solo & Ensemble Festival and performing in the community. Although these are not graded activities, they are highly rewarding experiences for all students. The musical growth and performance skills that are gained are absolutely invaluable.

Honor Bands

7th & 8th grade students that are looking for an extra challenge have the amazing opportunity of auditioning for the OMEA All-State band and District 14 Honor Band. These ensembles are made up of the top middle school music students from around Oregon. You can get audition music and information from Mr. Simon.

Band Supplies

Everyone:

1. Binder
2. Instrument and supplies. (if this is your first time getting instrument/supplies, much of what you see for your instrument type is INCLUDED with a rental. Ask your music vendor!)
 - Cases MUST have an ID tag with name and phone number.
 - Percussionists are REQUIRED to have a mallet bag with sticks, two sets of mallets (yarn and hard), and timpani mallets. These are available to purchase at the store
3. PENCIL with eraser (NOT a pen) – keep a designated “band pencil” in your instrument case
4. School Chromebook

Beginning Band: DO NOT BUY ANYTHING until you have decided on instrument with Mr. Simon.

- *Measures of Success*, Book 1 for your instrument (\$8.95 at any music store or online. Percussion book is \$16.95)
- Music stand Headphones

Advanced Band:

- *Measures of Success*, Book 2 for your instrument
- Music stand
- Headphones

PLEASE contact Mr. Simon before you plan to purchase your own instrument. There are many places to find instruments and not all of them are trustworthy or legitimate. If you can, avoid instruments from non-music retailers (think big box stores, large membership stores, or the two-day shipping people). These instruments have a tendency to be of inferior quality and can hinder student success. Many will not be repaired by any music store (lack of parts available), causing more eventual cost. If you find an instrument on Craigslist or eBay, Mr. Simon is happy to look at the link; just email him the posting. If something looks too good to be true, it probably is.

Instrument Rental

I highly recommend, if financially feasible, that each family rent an instrument from our local music stores. These instruments will often be of better quality and in better condition than school-owned instruments. Also, you may be able to “rent to own” these instruments, meaning that over time these payments will buy you an instrument to keep forever.

Wally's Music – located in Oregon City, OR

- Instrument Rental Website: <http://wallysmusic.com/rental-instruments/>
- Phone: 503-656-5323

Beacock Music – Located in Vancouver, WA (Delivers to MCMS)

- Instrument Rental Website: <https://www.beacockmusic.com/t-instrumentrentals.aspx>
- Phone: 360-694-7134

Canby Music – Located in Canby, OR

- Instrument Rental Website: <https://canbymusic.com/>
- Phone: 503-263-2263

School Instruments

The school has a limited number of instruments available for students to use. Most of these are larger instruments. There is no charge or rental fee for the use of these instruments, but extreme care of these instruments is a must; the current repair budget is extremely limited. As of the beginning of the year, all of these instruments are in good working order. Any repair work that may ensue during the course of the year needs to be taken care of by that particular student as soon as the problem is discovered. To rent a school instrument:

1. Notify Mr. Simon of instrument needs
2. Complete instrumental contract: This will document the condition of the instrument upon checkout, and requires both parent and student signatures
3. Turn in signed contract to Mr. Simon
4. Turn in instrument at or before the end of the school year. Upon check-in, the instrument will be inspected for damages. Repair costs for these damages will be the responsibility of the student. If an instrument is lost, stolen, or damaged beyond repair, the student is held responsible for replacement costs.
5. Instruments owned by Meridian Creek are also available to use over the summer at no cost.

Please understand that whether you are renting your own instrument or a school instrument, you are responsible for the care and proper handling of this expensive equipment. If misuse of an instrument results in damage, you will be held responsible for the cost of repairing it. I can't stress enough how important it is to keep your instrument clean and safe through everyday maintenance and careful handling.

Band Classroom Expectations

As talented and hardworking band students, it is expected that all students are active participants in the Band classroom. Every class period is a valuable opportunity to gain musical knowledge, experience, rehearsal time, develop strong, lifelong relationships, and have fun performing music with classmates. Mr. Simon LOVES teaching music and helping ALL students become the best human/musician they can be. If at ANY point you have a question, suggestion, concern, and/or need extra help throughout the school year, please feel free to reach out to Mr. Simon!

Concert Attire

Students are expected to come to concerts ready to perform. This includes an appropriate code of dress.

- **Advanced Band:** Students will wear...
 - A Meridian Creek Band Polo (provided by school). Students will be fitted for band polo's during the first two weeks of school.
 - Black dress pants
 - Black Socks
 - Black Shoes
- **Beginning Band:** Students will wear...
 - Black dress shirt (button down or polo)
 - Black dress pants
 - Black shoes
 - If a student is wearing a dress, please make sure the length of the dress goes below the knees when sitting.

Performance Policy

PERFORMANCES ARE REQUIRED ACTIVITIES!

Band is a performing art. Each performing group spends many hours of group rehearsal and each student practices on their own. The performance not only acts as the summative assessment of all of that work and learning, the act of performing is itself an integral part of the learning process in a performing arts class. It's also a TON OF FUN!

The unique circumstance of performing in a concert with an audience is not an activity that can be duplicated or made up with a different kind of activity. Because successful band performances take many weeks to prepare and each member of the ensemble is so very reliant on those around them, performance at concerts is not simply a matter of an individual student's grade, it is a matter of respect to those around you and to the ensemble as a whole.

In the event that a student has to miss a concert, it is expected that this is communicated well in advance of the concert date. Thank you for your help in encouraging our students to be the best musicians and ensembles they can be!

Miscellaneous Information

PRIVATE LESSONS

The single best way to progress on your instrument is to take private lessons. Private lessons allow students to work one on one to improve tone, technique, and musicality. Private lesson instructors can also help prepare students for auditions and performances at Solo and Ensemble festivals, as well as exposing students to music written specifically for their instrument. Below is a small list of local private instructors. All are experienced working with middle school aged students and come highly recommended. If you would like more information on specific teachers, please ask Mr. Simon.

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|---|
| • Flute | Karen Gifford | karen.gifford@yahoo.com ; 503-284-1674 |
| • Flute | Hannah Nordlie | nordleihj@gmail.com ; 701-412-1468 |
| • Oboe | Ann Van Bever | avanbever@comcast.net |
| • Bassoon | Adam Trussell | adamtrussell@hotmail.com ; 402-990-4079 |
| • Clarinet | John Donnelly | jdonnelly0808@gmail.com |
| • Saxophone | Joe Sorce | j.sorce@boltonmusicstudio.com |
| • Saxophone | David Evans | davidevanssax@gmail.com ; 971-645-1577 |
| • Saxophone | Sean Fredenburg | www.seanfredenburg.com |
| • Trumpet | Steve Conrow | scconrow@hotmail.com ; 503-806-3443 |
| • Trumpet | Allan Kalik | kaliktpt@yahoo.com ; 503-312-4715 |
| • Horn | Larry Johnson | joemama304@msn.com ; 503-657-0590 |
| • Low Brass | Andy Harris | harrisstreamservices@comcast.net ; 503-866-0901 |
| • Low Brass | Ben Medler | ben@medlerstudios.com |
| • Low Brass | Lars Campbell | larscampbell@gmail.com |
| • Tuba | Chuck Bolton | tubasat@aol.com ; 503-341-6214 |
| • Percussion | Gordon Rencher | grperc@comcast.net |
| • Percussion | Tim Rap | atrap@hevanet.com ; 503-201-2084 |

Purchasing an Instrument:

If you are interested in purchasing an instrument for your student, the following is information for each instrument on quality brands and suggested materials. If you would like more information, please contact Mr. Simon.

Flutes: cleaning rod, polishing cloth, small cleaning cloth (you can make one out of an old clean shirt, about 4 square inches). **Recommended Brands:** Yamaha, Gemeinhardt, Armstrong, Jupiter.

Oboes: 3 reeds, medium or medium soft, silk swab, tiny cup for reeds, reed case. **Recommended Brands:** Selmer, Yamaha.

Clarinets: Mouthpiece, mouthpiece cap, ligature, reeds (use 2 or 2.5 strength reeds for your first year, move up to 3 by your second year) – ALWAYS have at least 3 working reeds at a time, reed case, swab, cork grease. **Recommended Brands:** Yamaha, Buffet, Leblanc, Selmer.

Recommended (optional): Mouthpiece brush, Fobes Debut or Vandoren M13 lyre mouthpiece, wood clarinets are generally better than plastic

Saxophones: Mouthpiece, mouthpiece cap, ligature, reeds (use 2.5 strength reeds for your first year, move up to 3 by your second year) – ALWAYS have at least 3 working reeds at a time, reed case, swab, polishing cloth, cork grease. **Recommended Brands:** Yamaha, Selmer, Yanigasawa.

Recommended (optional): Mouthpiece brush, Rousseau NC4 mouthpiece for ALTO saxes, Selmer C Star Mouthpiece or Fobes Debut Mouthpiece for any sax type

Trumpets/Cornets: Valve oil, slide grease, cleaning snake, mouthpiece brush, BERP (“Buzz Extension Resistance Piece”) for your instrument type. **Recommended Brands:** Bach, Holton, Yamaha, Conn, Jupiter.

Recommended: 1st year players: Bach 7C mouthpiece (make sure you get the version for your instrument—trumpet or cornet), intermediate-advanced players: Bach 5C

French Horns: valve oil, slide grease. BERP (“Buzz Extension Resistance Piece”) for horn. **Recommended Brands:** Conn, Yamaha, Holton.

Recommended (optional): Holton-Farkas MDC mouthpiece

Trombones: Slide cream+ water spray bottle (or slide oil), , tuning slide grease (for use with the TUNING slide, **not** the slide that you move when you play), BERP (“Buzz Extension Resistance Piece”) for your trombone.

Recommended Brands: Bach, Conn, Yamaha, Jupiter.

Recommended: Bach 12C or 6½ AL mouthpiece

Baritones: Valve oil, slide grease, cleaning snake, mouthpiece brush, BERP (“Buzz Extension Resistance Piece”) for baritone/euphonium. **Recommended Brands:** Bach, Yamaha, Holton, Jupiter

Tuba: Valve or rotor oil (ask band teacher which one for your tuba), slide grease, mouthpiece brush, BERP (“Buzz Extension Resistance Piece”) for tuba. **Recommended Brands:** Miraphone, Jupiter, King

Percussion: Bell/drum kit (the school cannot provide these), practice pad, stick/mallet bag, snare Drum Sticks -Vic Firth SD1 5A or equivalent of another brand (wood tip, not plastic), rubber mallets (should come with bell/drum kit) (*Recommended: Mike Balter 04R Light Green*), yarn mallets (*Recommended: Mike Balter 23R Blue Cord Mallets*), timpani mallets (*Recommended: Vic Firth T3 Staccato Timpani Mallets*)

Student and Parent Band Contract

The link below is for Parents and Students to acknowledge that you have read and agree to the band policies in this Handbook. Please click the link below and complete by Friday, September 17th.

[Band Handbook Contract](#)